

Message Text

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TO USINT DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA (KRAFT, JOSEPH), SY., U.S.

SUBJECT: VISITS BY JOSEPH KRAFT AND ANGUS DEMING OF NEWSWEEK

1. COLUMNIST JOSEPH KRAFT INFORMS DEPARTMENT HE PLANS TO VISIT SYRIA IN APRIL TO DO REPORTING PIECE ALONG LINES OF "LETTERS" FROM CAIRO AND FROM ISRAEL PUBLISHED LAST MONTHS IN NEW YORKER. KRAFT PLANS TO ARRIVE IN DAMASCUS ABOUT APRIL 10 AND TO BE THERE OFF AND ON THROUGH MOST OF REST OF MONTH. HE WANTS TO SEE WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE, I.E. POLITICAL LEADERS INCLUDING IF POSSIBLE PRESIDENT ASAD AND FONMIN KHADDAM, LEADERS OF BAATH PARTY, COMMUNIST PARTY, WRITERS, JOURNALISTS AND PROFESSORS. WOULD ALSO LIKE TO GO TO HOMS, ALEPPO AND EUPHRATES DAM.

2. KRAFT HAS DISCUSSED HIS PLANS WITH SYRIAN INTERESTS SECTION CHIEF KABBANI, WHO TELLS US HE IS REFERRING MATTER TO FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT. WE GATHER KABBANI IS RECOMMENDING FOREIGN MINISTRY COOPERATE WITH KRAFT. KABBANI REMARKED THAT DESPITE KRAFT'S KNOWN SYMPATHIES HE FEELS KRAFT IS OPEN-MINDED AND HE WAS IMPRESSED BY FAIRNESS OF KRAFT'S NEW YORKER LETTER FROM CAIRO.

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3. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ADVISING FONMIN THAT KRAFT IS

APPLYING FOR VISA THROUGH SYRIAN INTERESTS SECTION
AND OF HIS PLANS AS PER PARA ONE ABOVE.

4. ANGUS DEMING, NEWSWEEK BUREAU CHIEF IN JERUSALEM,
PLANS TO VISIT SYRIA EN ROUTE TO UNITED STATES SOME
TIME DURING NEXT TWO WEEKS. DEMING, WHO WILL BE
ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, HOPES TO VISIT ALEPPO AS WELL AS
DAMASCUS. HE HAS BEEN IN SYRIA RECENTLY AND SO ANTI-
CIPATES NO VISA OR ENTRY PROBLEMS. DEMING WILL CONTACT
USINT UPON ARRIVAL. RUSH

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